



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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HB 2063  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
MONITORING PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD AND WATER

House Committee on  
Planning, Energy and Environmental Protection  
Public Hearing - February 4, 1988

By  
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center  
Barry Brennan, Agricultural Biochemistry  
Richard Green, Agronomy and Soil Sciences  
Roy Takekawa, Environmental Health and Safety Office  
Steven Armann, Environmental Center

HB 2063 would appropriate within the Department of Health (DOH) \$372,000 for three full time laboratory positions and \$171,500 for four full time positions in the food product section for the monitoring of pesticides in food. Additionally, HB 2063 would appropriate \$131,000 for six full time positions to monitor contaminants in drinking water pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The appropriations would be for fiscal year 1988-1989.

Our statement on this bill is not an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The appropriations to create positions to monitor pesticide contaminants in both our food and water is unquestionably in the best interest of Hawaii. Unfortunately, HB 2063 only appropriates money for fiscal year 1988-1989 and does not attempt to implement a long range comprehensive monitoring plan. We estimate that it would take at least three years of comprehensive monitoring before such a program would begin to have a significant impact. It must be recognized that significant start up time is required for selection and training of new personnel so that they will be qualified and competent with the techniques and equipment used to monitor pesticides in food and water. This training time would further reduce the actual monitoring time to less than a year; a period inadequate to effectively evaluate the impacts of pesticide contamination in our food and water.

Section 2 of the bill designates sums to be appropriated for three full time position categories to carry out the monitoring. The significant differences in appropriations for each of the three categories is unclear and furthermore does not seem logical.

*A Unit of Water Resources Research Center*

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